

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 SAM-01 OMB-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 /080 W

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3051

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PINS AO

SUBJ: TE-FLEC FORCE STILL HAS HOSTAGES; MPLA DECLINES TO ASSIST
PORTUGUESE ARMY

REF: LUANDA 959

1. ACCORDING TO TODAY'S PRESS (NOV. 12), TE-FLEC SOLDIERS ARE STILL IN POSSESSION OF THEIR HILLTOP POSITION AT MASSABI NEAR THE CONGO BORDER. MPLA HAS PUBLICLY DECLINED TO ASSIST THE PORTUGUESE ARMY IN DISLODGING THEM, SAYING THAT THEIR RECENT ACCORD WITH THE PORTUGUESE PROHIBITS MPLA'S ARMED PRESENCE OUTSIDE OF CERTAIN "LIBERATED AREAS." MASSABI IS NOT SITUATED IN A LIBERATED AREA AND MPLA SAYS THE JOB OF ATTACKING THE TE-FLEC POSITION IS THE ARMY'S. (THE ACCORD DID NOT INHIBIT AN ARMED MPLA PRESENCE LAST WEEK IN CABINDA CITY, ALSO OUTSIDE LIBERATED TERRITORY.)

2. ACCORDING TO THE NEW PORTUGUESE MILITARY COMMANDER IN CABINDA (QUOTED IN THE PRESS), THE HILLTOP FORCE NUMBERS 50 TES, "SOME"
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FLEC MEMBERS AND "FRENCH-SPEAKING CIVILIANS." ACCORDING TO THE

PRESS THE HOSTAGES ARE 15 PORTUGUESE SOLDIERS, THREE CIVILIANS
AND FOUR PORTUGUESE POLICE.

3. A SECOND TE-FLEC ACTION IS EXPECTED IN THE REGION BETWEEN
CABINDA CITY AND THE ZAIRE BORDER, THE AREA OF THE MOST INTENSIVE
FLEC SUPPORT.

4. A JUNTA MEMBER TOLD ME NOV. 12 THAT THE HOSTAGES TOTAL 38 AND
THAT THE GOVERNMENT PLANNED SHORTLY TO ISSUE AN ULTIMATUM TO
THE DISSIDENTS, WHO, HE SAID, WERE VIRTUALLY WITHOUT ARMS AND
INCAPABLE OF HOLDING OUT FOR LONG.
KILLORAN

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